

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1657

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO PANCANAL

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UNCLAS PANAMA 2953

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TV COMMENTATOR REMARKS ON IRIBERRI GATE INCIDENT

REF: PANAMA 2599; PANAMA 2601

1. WELL-KNOWN PANAMANIAN TELEVISION COMMENTATOR MAYIN CORREA MADE A PITCH FOR REASON AND PROPORTION IN REACTING TO THE IRIBERRI CANAL ZONE MILITARY GATE INCIDENT (SEE REFTELS) ON HER "EDICION ESPECIAL" PROGRAM OF APRIL 18. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HER REMARKS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: EVERYONE KNOWS OF THE INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AT ONE OF THE ENTRANCES TO A CANAL ZONE MILITARY BASE REGARDING A NATURALIZED PANAMANIAN CITIZEN.

ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED REPORTS, THE NATURALIZED PANAMANIAN CITIZEN REFUSED TO SHOW THE IDENTIFICATION REQUESTED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES AND DID NOT INDICATE HIS DESTINATION. IT IS ALSO KNOWN THAT THERE ARE (ENTRY) REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED ON ALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WORLDWIDE.
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WE PANAMANIAN ALSO REQUIRE THE SAME REQUISITES ON OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. IT IS TRUE THAT WE PANAMANIAN ARE STRUGGLING SO THAT THAT TERRITORY (THE CANAL ZONE) RETURN TO OUR JURISDICTION. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT WE SHOULD FEEL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIS PEACEFUL STRUGGLE. NEVERTHELESS, AS AMBASSADOR JORDEN POINTED OUT,

WHEN DEALING WITH HUMAN BEINGS, INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE
ONE WHICH WE REFER TO ARE DIFFICULT TO AVOID.

ANYTHING CAN BE EXPECTED AT THE LEVEL OF IN-
DIVIDUALS WHO ARE LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT PANAMANIAN
PROBLEMS. NEVERTHELESS, OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH
MUST BE VERY BUSY DURING THIS PERIOD OF CULMINATION OF
SUCH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS NEITHER CAN NOR SHOULD WASTE
TIME ON INCIDENTS OF THIS KIND.

IN THAT REGARD WE WANT, AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR SAID
IN HIS FIRM AND ELOQUENT STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY,
SUNDAY: "LET ME SAY THAT OUR TWO NATIONS, PANAMA AND THE
U.S., HAVE VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DEAL WITH. WE ARE
WELL ALONG THE PATH TOWARDS NEW AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD
GREATLY BENEFIT OUR RELATIONS."

SOME TIME, TV VIEWING FRIENDS, WE THINK THAT WE HAVE
REACHED THE SATURATION POINT, ALMOST (ONE) OF HYSTERIA
WHICH TOUCHES THE RIDICULOUS. WE PANAMANIANIANS WANT THE
CANAL, THAT YES, BUT LET US BE SENSIBLE, SERIOUS AND
RESPONSIBLE IN THAT STRUGGLE. BY SO DOING WE CAN
EXPECT VICTORY WITH GREATER FAITH AND OPTIMISM. END
TEXT.
JORDEN

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